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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ANTHONY J. JENKINS ANNOUNCES
THE CONVICTION OF CRAIG M. HENDRICKS, RUSSELL ROBINSON,
DANIEL FLEMING AND ELROY DOWE, FOR NARCOTICS
AND MONEY LAUNDERING CONSPIRACY**

Anthony J. Jenkins, U.S. Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands today announced that Craig M. Hendricks, Russell Robinson, Daniel Fleming and Elroy Dowe were convicted yesterday August 3, 2005 of narcotics and money laundering conspiracies after a three-week trial in District Court in St. Croix.

Evidence introduced during the trial showed that from the early part of 2000 through at least April 2003, Craig Hendricks led an international drug smuggling and money laundering organization. Hendricks was the owner of a facially-legitimate marine services business which was used as a front for his illegal activities. The drug organization was run primarily from St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, served essentially as a transportation network of drug smugglers and money carriers who would transport large quantities of drugs from various locations in the Caribbean to the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. The drugs were then either distributed in the Virgin Islands, or sent for further distribution to the Continental United States. Money was also transported in bulk sums from the Virgin Islands to various destinations in the Caribbean. The

drug trafficking organization employed boat captains, boat riggers, police officers, pilots, and various other individuals in order to operate. Drugs were usually transported by speedboats, which had been outfitted specifically for smuggling, as well as private planes. Money was usually transported in private planes.

In 2004, a 12-count superseding indictment was filed, charging Hendricks, Robinson, Fleming, Dowe and others with Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute narcotics, conspiracy to import narcotics and with individual counts of distribution of narcotics, possession with intent to distribute narcotics and importation of narcotics. Craig Hendricks, Russell Robinson and Daniel Fleming were charged in one of the twelve counts with Conspiracy to commit Money Laundering. Yesterday, the jury found all four Defendants on trial guilty of the two narcotics conspiracies, and Hendricks, Robinson and Fleming guilty of the money laundering conspiracy. In addition, Hendricks and Fleming were found guilty of individual counts of possession with intent to distribute narcotics and distribution of narcotics.

The Sentencing Date has not yet been set by the Court. Craig Hendricks and Daniel Fleming are facing a mandatory minimum sentence of ten years imprisonment and a maximum sentence of life imprisonment in addition to fines and forfeiture of their property as a result of their convictions. Robinson and Dowe are also facing substantial sentences of imprisonment, fines and forfeiture.

The case was tried by Assistant U.S. Attorney Patricia Sulzbach and Organized Crime Attorney Cynthia Stone. U.S. Attorney Jenkins thanked the prosecutors for their hard work and also thanked FBI Special Agent in Charge (“SAC”) Luis Fraticelli, DEA SAC Jerome Harris and IRS SAC Brian Wimpling whose agencies cooperated in the investigation, and assisted in the prosecution of the case. U.S. Attorney Jenkins also gave individual recognition to the lead case agents, DEA Special Agent Joseph Tokarz, FBI Special Agent Gregory Mentzer and IRS Special Agent Jacqueline Reynolds.